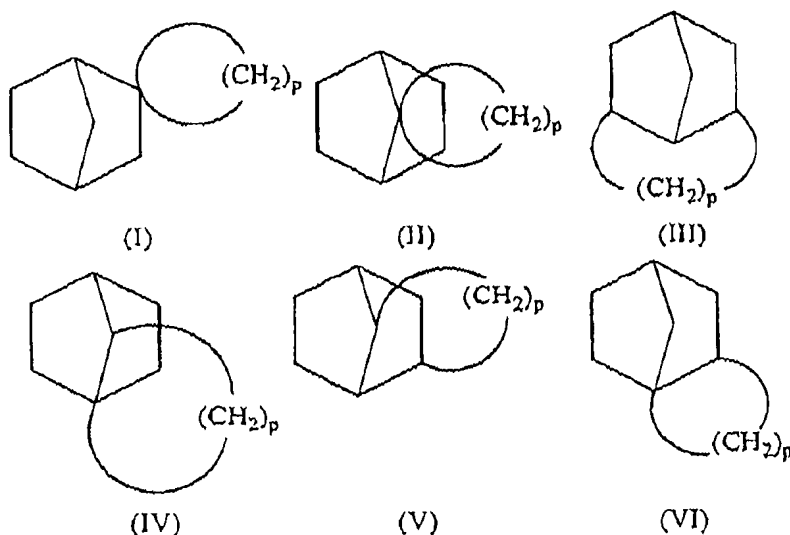


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

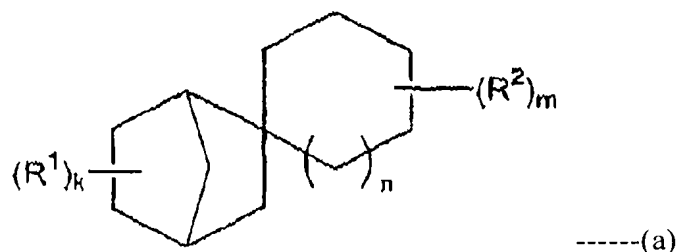
Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A lube base oil, wherein the lube base oil comprises at least one hydrocarbon compound having, as a basic skeleton, a structure represented by any of formulas (I) to (VI) shown below, and has a viscosity, at -40°C, of 40 Pa·s or lower and a viscosity index of 80 or higher



wherein  $p$  is an integer of 1 to 10 with the proviso that, in the formulas (I) and (II),  $p$  is not 1.

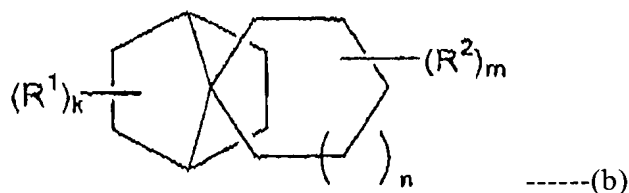
Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The lube base oil as recited in claim 1, wherein the oil has a viscosity, at -40°C, of 35 Pa·s or lower.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The lube base oil as recited in claim 1, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the formula (I), and wherein the structure represented by the formula (I) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by formula (a):



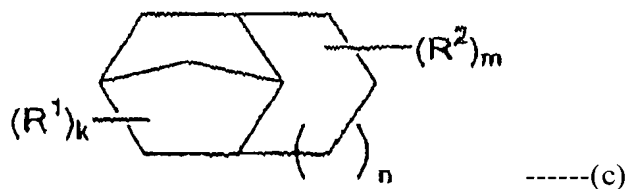
wherein k, m and n are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that k+m is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The lube base oil as recited in claim 1, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the formula (II), and wherein the structure represented by formula (II) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by formula (b):



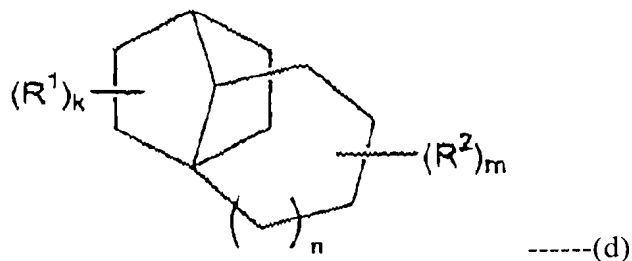
wherein k, m and n are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that k+m is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The lube base oil as recited in claim 1, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the formula (III), and wherein the structure represented by formula (III) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by formula (c):



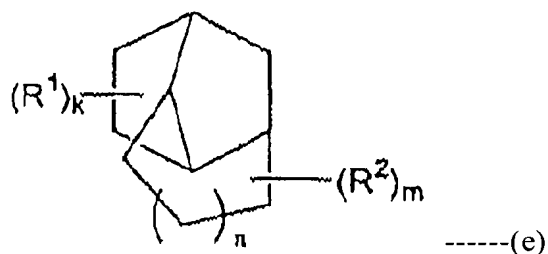
wherein  $k$ ,  $m$  and  $n$  are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that  $k+m$  is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A lube base oil as recited in claim 1, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the formula (IV), and wherein the structure of formula (IV) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by formula (d):



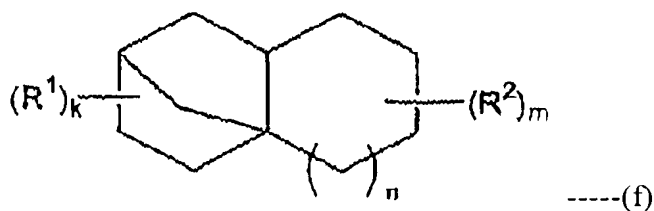
wherein  $k$ ,  $m$  and  $n$  are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that  $k+m$  is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The lube base oil as recited in claim 1, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the formula (V), and wherein the structure represented by formula (V) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by formula (e):



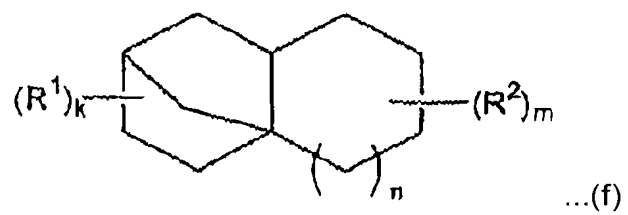
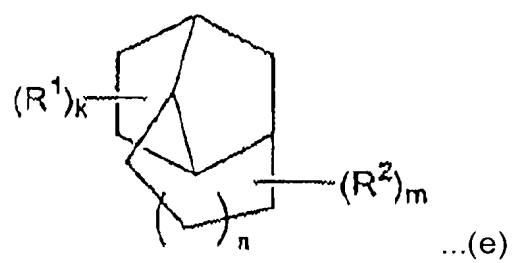
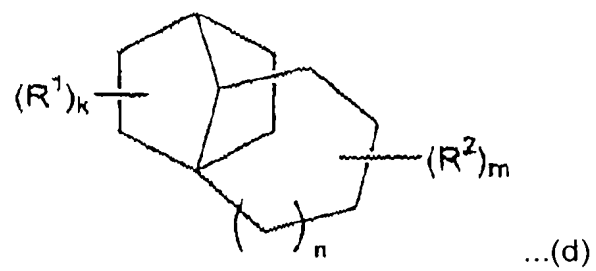
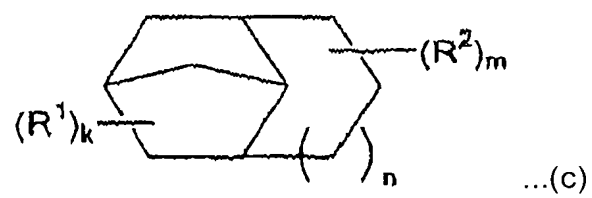
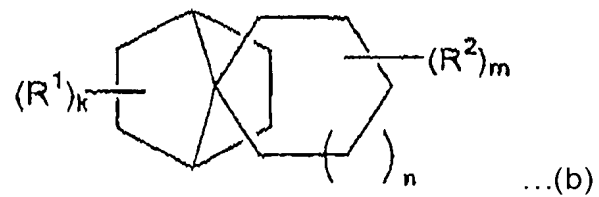
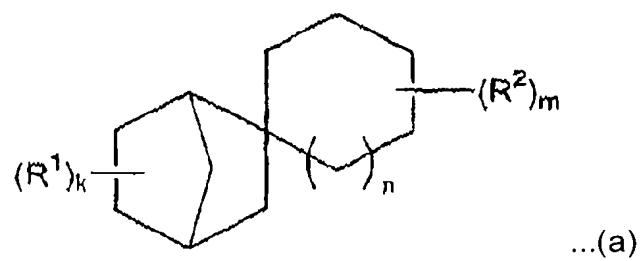
wherein  $k$ ,  $m$  and  $n$  are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that  $k+m$  is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A lube base oil as recited in claim 1, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the formula (VI), and wherein the structure represented by formula (VI) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by formula (f):



wherein  $k$ ,  $m$  and  $n$  are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that  $k+m$  is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

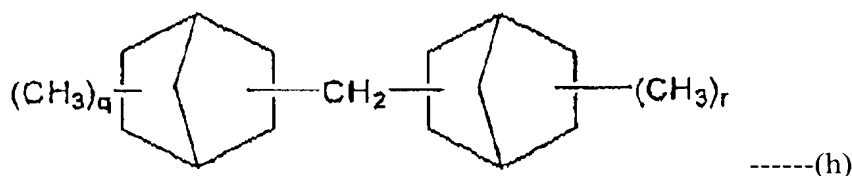
Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A composition comprising at least one hydrocarbon compound of any of formulas (a) to (f),



wherein in (a)-(f), k, m and n are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that k+m is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms;

and a synthetic traction base oil which is other than said at least one hydrocarbon compound and which has an alicyclic structure, wherein the composition has a viscosity, at -40°C, of 40 Pa·s or lower, and a viscosity index of 80 or higher.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The composition as recited in claim 9, wherein the synthetic traction base oil having an alicyclic structure is a hydrocarbon which has 16 to 20 carbon atoms and which is represented by the formula (h):



wherein q is an integer of 1 or 2 and r is an integer of 2 or 3.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The composition as recited in claim 9, wherein the synthetic traction base oil having an alicyclic structure is 2,4-dicyclohexyl-2-methylpentane.

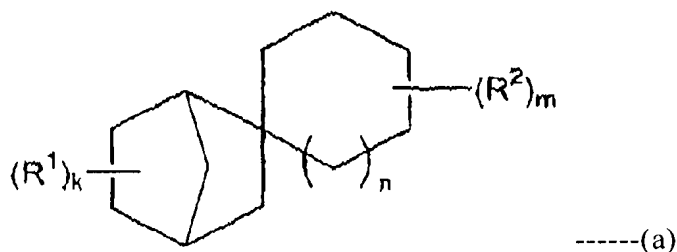
Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The composition as recited in claim 9, wherein the synthetic traction base oil having an alicyclic structure is 2,3-dicyclohexyl-2,3-dimethylbutane.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The lube base oil of claim 1, further comprising at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an antioxidant, a viscosity index

improver, a detergent dispersant, a friction reducing agent, a metal deactivator, a pour point depressant, an abrasion proof agent, an antifoaming agent and an extreme pressure agent.

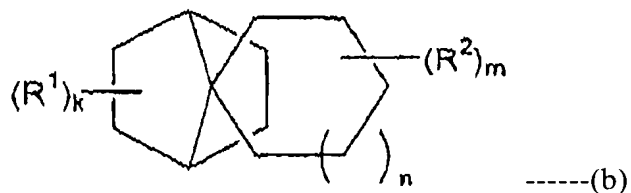
Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A fluid for traction drive, comprising the composition of claim 9 and at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an antioxidant, a viscosity index improver, a detergent dispersant, a friction reducing agent, a metal deactivator, a pour point depressant, an abrasion proof agent, an antifoaming agent and an extreme pressure agent.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The lube base oil as recited in claim 2, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the formula (I), and wherein the structure represented by the formula (I) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by formula (a):



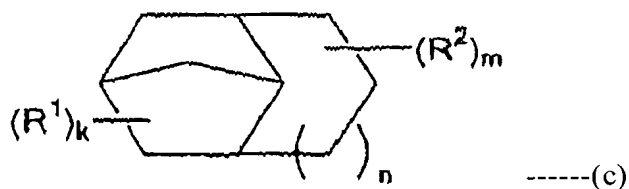
wherein k, m and n are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that k+m is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The lube base oil as recited in claim 2, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the formula (II), and wherein the structure represented by formula (II) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by formula (b):



wherein  $k$ ,  $m$  and  $n$  are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that  $k+m$  is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

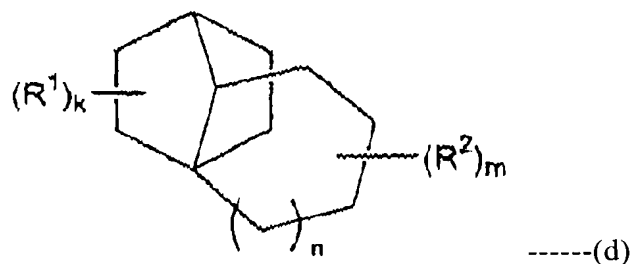
Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The lube base oil as recited in claim 2, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the formula (III), and wherein the structure represented by formula (III) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by the formula (c):



wherein  $k$ ,  $m$  and  $n$  are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that  $k+m$  is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

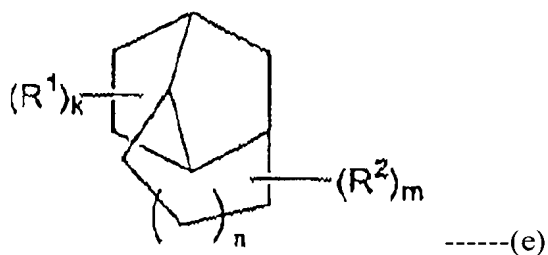
Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A lube base oil as recited in claim 2, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the formula (IV), and wherein the structure of formula (IV) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by formula (d):





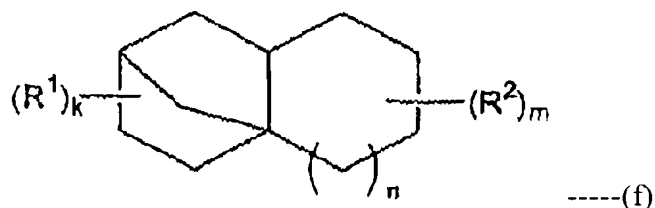
wherein  $k$ ,  $m$  and  $n$  are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that  $k+m$  is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The lube base oil as recited in claim 2, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the formula (V), and wherein the structure represented by formula (V) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by formula (e):



wherein  $k$ ,  $m$  and  $n$  are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that  $k+m$  is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A lube base oil as recited in claim 2, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises, as a basic skeleton, the structure represented by the formula (VI), and wherein the structure represented by formula (VI) is a hydrocarbon compound which has 12 to 24 carbon atoms and which is represented by formula (f):



wherein k, m and n are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that k+m is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 21 (New): The lube base oil as recited in claim 1, wherein the oil has a viscosity, at  $-40^\circ\text{C}$ , of 30 Pa·s or lower.

Claim 22 (New): The lube base oil as recited in claim 9, wherein the oil has a viscosity, at  $-40^\circ\text{C}$ , of 30 Pa·s or lower.